## SCANNING OCEAN CITY, MD

Prior to 1993, the Town of Ocean City maintained more than 700 radios on 14 different radio systems in the VHF low, high and UHF bands. An approaching hurricane forced the town's evacuation in 1985. City agencies, says the O.C. Emergency Management Web site, had a difficult time coordinating with each other. City officials soon sought to improve radio communication.

By December of 1992, the city negotiated a contract for a General Electric EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communications System) trunked radio system, which despite its name, is an analog radio system. The system was installed during the following two years. Since that time the city made several improvements to the system, including frequency swaps and additions. With the advent of EDACS Trunk Trackers, this is the first complete summer that scanner enthusiasts will be able to enjoy tracking the system.

The system, which consists of some 1,100 radios, includes those radios used by the Ocean City government, Ocean Pines and Berlin police, and the Eastern Shore Gas Company. Worcester County also has several experimental talkgroups on the system, and has expressed interest in eventually joining the system.

A 5.2 mile 10 GHz microwave link connects the 65th Street Public Safety Building to the system's primary nine-channel transmit site -- a 400 foot tower near Ocean Pines northwest of the intersection of Routes 90 and 589. Should this site fail, system operations hopefully transfer to a four-channel back-up site (on 856.7375, 857.7375, 858.7375 and 859.7375) at the Public Safety Building. Two new channels, 856.2375 and 857.2375, are licensed for both sites, but have yet to be implemented.

Since this is an EDACS system, the frequencies

must be entered in the proper order. Logical channel numbers and corresponding frequencies are as follows:

EDACS Trunked Channels

| Frequency | LCN |
|-----------|-----|
| 859.9875 | LCN1 |
| 853.9625 | LCN2 |
| 855.2375 | LCN3 |
| 860.9875 | LCN4 |
| 856.7375 | LCN5 |
| 857.7375 | LCN6 |
| 858.7375 | LCN7 |
| 859.7375 | LCN8 |
| 860.7375 | LCN9 |
| 856.2375 | LCN10 |
| 857.2375 | LCN11 |

Talkgroups are as follows:

| Hex | Decimal | AFS | Title/Agency |
|-----|---------|--------|--------------|
| 0100 | 0256 | 02-000 | Citywide All Call |
| 0111 | 0273 | 02-021 | Pol 1 South of 18th St |
| 0112 | 0274 | 02-022 | Pol 2 North, 460.325 |
| 0113 | 0275 | 02-023 | Pol 3 Alternate |
| 0114 | 0276 | 02-024 | Pol 4 Data |
| 0115 | 0277 | 02-025 | Pol 5 Narcotics |
| 0116 | 0278 | 02-026 | Pol 6 Detectives |
| 0117 | 0279 | 02-027 | Pol 7 QRT Tac 1 |
| 0118 | 0280 | 02-030 | Pol QRT Tac 2 |
| 0121 | 0289 | 02-041 | Fire 1 Disp, 158.895 |
| 0122 | 0290 | 02-042 | Fire 2 Ops 1, 154.085 |
| 0123 | 0291 | 02-043 | Fire 3 Ops 2 |
| 0124 | 0292 | 02-044 | Fire 4 EMS Ops 1 |
| 0125 | 0293 | 02-045 | Fire 5 Helo Patch, 154.025 |
| 0126 | 0294 | 02-046 | Fire 6 USCG Patch, 157.15 |
| 0127 | 0295 | 02-047 | Fire 7 Worc Patch, 46 CHs |
| 0128 | 0296 | 02-050 | Fire/Pol 8 Fire Marshal |
| 0129 | 0297 | 02-051 | Fire 11 Sussex Patch, 800 |
| 012a | 0298 | 02-052 | Eastern Shore Gas |
| 012b | 0299 | 02-053 | Eastern Shore Gas |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0131 | 0305 | 02-061 | Public Wks 1; Const/ Water |
| 0132 | 0306 | 02-062 | Public Wks 2; Maint/ Traffic |
| 0133 | 0307 | 02-063 | Sanitation 1; Solid Waste |
| 0134 | 0308 | 02-064 | Sanitation 2; Recyle |
| 0135 | 0309 | 02-065 | Trans 1; Boardwalk Trains |
| 0136 | 0310 | 02-066 | Trans 2; Buses |
| 0137 | 0311 | 02-067 | Ocean City Airport |
| 0138 | 0312 | 02-070 | Building Inspectors |
| 0139 | 0313 | 02-071 | Service Center |
| 013f | 0319 | 02-077 | Wastewater |
| 0141 | 0321 | 02-081 | Parks/Recreation |
| 0142 | 0322 | 02-082 | Eagles Landing Golf Course |
| 0143 | 0323 | 02-083 | Beach Patrol 1/Grp 10-Main |
| 0144 | 0324 | 02-084 | Beach Patrol 2/Grp 11-Tac |
| 0151 | 0337 | 02-101 | Convention Center 1 |
| 0152 | 0338 | 02-102 | Convention Center 2 |
| 0153 | 0339 | 02-103 | Convention Center Rental |
| 0154 | 0340 | 02-104 | Conv Ctr Cater/Svc Am Corp |
| 0161 | 0353 | 02-121 | City Executives |
| 0162 | 0354 | 02-122 | Command Channel |
| 0163 | 0355 | 02-123 | Coordination 1 (CH12) |
| 0164 | 0356 | 02-124 | Coordination 2 (CH13) |
| 0165 | 0357 | 02-125 | Coordination 3 (CH14), 162.475 Alert |
| 0167 | 0359 | 02-127 | EMERGENCY (CH9) |
| 0171 | 0369 | 02-141 | Public/OCHMRA Link, 155.37 |
| 0172 | 0370 | 02-142 | Ocean Pines Police 1 |
| 0173 | 0371 | 02-143 | Ocean Pines Police 2 |
| 0181 | 0385 | 03-001 | Worc Co Shr Sp Tacs & Resp |
| 01f1 | 0497 | 03-141 | Radio Maintenance 1 |
| 01f2 | 0498 | 03-142 | Radio Maintenance 2 |
| 01f8 | 0504 | 03-150 | Training |
| 0311 | 0785 | 06-021 | Worc Co Fire 1, 46.38 |
| 0312 | 0786 | 06-022 | Worc Co Fire 2 (future) |
| 0321 | 0801 | 06-041 | Berlin Police 1 |
| 0322 | 0802 | 06-042 | Berlin Police 2 |
| 0381 | 0897 | 07-001 | Simulcasts 122.8 |
| 07f7 | 2039 | 15-147 | Patch #9 |
| 07f8 | 2040 | 15-150 | Patch #8 |
| 07f9 | 2041 | 15-151 | Patch #7 |
| 07fb | 2043 | 15-153 | Patch #5 |
| 07fc | 2044 | 15-154 | Patch #4 |
| 07fd | 2045 | 15-155 | Patch #3 |
| 07fe | 2046 | 15-156 | Patch #2 |
| 07ff | 2047 | 15-157 | Patch #1 |

## Town if Ocean City
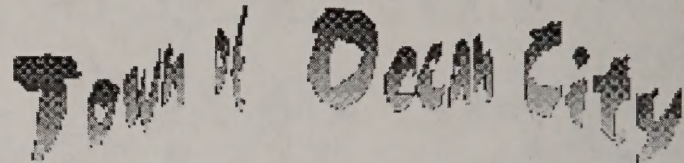
When multiple talkgroups are patched in an EDACS system, Trunk Trackers, unfortunately, often recognize the patch as a new talkgroup. The first patch activated in the system, at least in Ocean City, starts at 07FF (hex), and decreases by one as each additional patch is activated. This season, however, patches appear to start with 0001 (hex).

When the beach patrol refers to "special 1," "special 2," etc., those are individual direct calls on the trunked system. Although seldom used, the former primary beach patrol channel, 155.37, is now intended for use in conjunction with the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association and the Emergency Management Division.

When Emergency Management activates the OCHMRA talkgroup on the trunked system, it's supposed to simulcast on 155.37 and provide businesses and the public with important information. Other than rare tests, I've heard it used only once for a hurricane bulletin. The city continues to license 158.85, the former input to 155.37. Adjoining Sussex County had tried a similar alerting system using Delaware Emergency Management Agency's 45.24.

On the police side, Ocean City police routinely use channel 2 (talkgroup 2) as the primary year-round channel. This year the talkgroup simulcasts on 460.325, but had previously simulcast on 460.425 (the license for 460.425 expired in October).

During peak periods, which includes much of the summer, the city adds another dispatcher for the area south of 18th Street and those officers move to channel 1 (talkgroup 1). Unfortunately no simulcast exists for that channel. The former south-end channel, 460.15, remains licensed, but inactive.

Talkgroup plans for primary police and fire/EMS radios are as follows:

Police Talkgroup Plan
1 Dispatch South
2 Dispatch North (460.325)
3 Tactical
4 Data/Computer checks
5 Narcotics
6 Detectives
7 Quick Response Team
8 Fire Marshals
9 Emergency channel
10 Beach Patrol Group 10
11 Wastewater
12 Coordination 1
13 Coordination 2
14 Coordination 3 - Wx Alert (162.475)
15 Conventional Repeater (866.0125)
16 Conventional Direct (866.0125)

Fire/EMS Talkgroup Plan
1 Dispatch (158.895)
2 Operations 1 (154.085)
3 Operations 2
4 EMS Ops
5 Med-Evac Helo Patch (154.025)
6 USCG Patch (157.15)
7 Worc Patch (46 MHz)
8 Fire Marshals
9 Emergency channel
10 Beach Patrol Group 10
11 Wastewater/Sussex Co FD Patch
12 Coordination 1
13 Coordination 2
14 Coordination 3 - Wx Alert (162.475)
15 Conventional Repeater (866.0125)
16 Conventional Direct (866.0125)

**O C Fire Company**

Ocean City, Maryland USA

The Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company has an excellent Web site with valuable information. Webmaster and fire fighter Robert Korb has to be commended for his work.

Check out http://www.ocvfc.com and http://www. ocemergency.com.  Included is the city's emergency operations plan, fire station pictures, locations and box areas, communications, historical and other useful information.  Just about the only thing missing is a copy of OCPD's radio codes. The police use the standard MSP 10 code (APCO 1969 edition).

SELECTED O.C. AREA CONVENTIONAL CHANNELS

| Freq | | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 34.8300 | s | Assateague Island Nat Seashore |
| 37.3600 | s | DNR Lower East Sh Region |
| 39.6000 | s | MSP Berlin, Barrack V |
| 47.3200 | s | SHA Ch. 1: Statewide |
| 47.4000 | s | SHA Ch. 3: Dist. 1 (Worc Co) |
| 122.8000 | s | O.C. Airport UniCom |
| 151.2050 | r | DNR Fish & Game Police |
| 151.3250 | s | DNR East Reg Parks (Ch. 2) |
| 151.4600 | s | DNR East Reg Forests (Ch. 1) |
| 154.0250 | - | Fire 5 Helo Patch (patch) |
| 154.0850 | - | Fire 2 Ops 1 (simulcast) |
| 155.3700 | - | Public/OCHMRA Link (simulcast) |
| 158.8950 | - | Fire 1 Disp (simulcast) |
| 159.4500 | r | DNR Statewide (Ch. 3) |
| 168.3500 | s | Assateague Isl Nat Seashore Maint |
| 170.0500 | r | Chincoteague Nat Wildlife Ref |
| 453.3500 | r | MSP Exec Prot Div (Berlin site) |
| 460.3250 | - | O.C. Police (simulcast) |
| 462.9750 | d | Med 10, Worc Co Calling (467.975 mobile) |
| 463.0750 | d | Med 4, Worc Co Primary (468.075 mobile) |
| 866.0125 | r | O.C. Conv/Nat'l Calling Ch |

The former O.C. public works channel, 154.04, and the former Convention Center channel, 154.57, both remain licensed and are probably unused.  Although not as popular as they once were, the older low band fire/EMS and police channels are still available for patching through the Ocean City trunked system for mutual aid coordination. You can even hear the Loudoun County fire dispatch (46.38) regularly simulcast on the O.C. system!

33.780 Sussex Co Fire Ch. 1 (statewide)
33.960 Sussex Co Fire Ch. 2 (tac east)
33.980 Wicomico Co Fire Ch. 1
46.380 Worcester Co Fire Ch. 1
46.440 Worcester Co Fire Ch. 2
46.360 Ocean City Fire (old dispatch)
46.320 Ocean City (former EMS ops)

39.100 MSP Statewide
39.180 Worcester Co Sheriff
39.480 Ocean City (original OCPD ch)

## U.S. Department of Transportation
## United States Coast Guard

### SELECTED O.C. AREA MARINE/COAST GUARD CHANNELS

156.650 s   Ch. 13: Navigational, Harry Kelly Bridge
156.800 s   Ch. 16: Distress & Safety
157.050 s   Ch. 21: USCG Group Atlantic City
157.150 s   Ch. 23; USCG O.C.-Indian River Stations
162.325 s   USCG Sta. O.C. Law Enfo Net "Lant 32"
406.975 r   USCG Sta. O.C. Rad Ctl Net (413.0375 in)

Although Coast Guard Station Ocean City only has a helipad for visiting helicopters, the station is authorized to operate on a slew of military air frequencies, specifically:

242.400 USCG 5th Dist air to ground
243.000 International distress
250.950
263.350 USCG 5th Dist maritime defense net
275.750 USCG 5th Dist maritime defense net
275.850 USCG 5th Dist air to ground
282.800 USCG joint mil on-scene SAR/rescue swimmer ops
381.700 USCG SAR, law enfo, intel, maritime def net
381.800 USCG SAR, law enfo, intel, maritime def net
383.900 USCG SAR, law enfo, intel, maritime def net

Just off the Ocean City coast is Warning Area 108 -- an area commonly used by the military for airborne and nautical maneuvers. The airspace is controlled by "Giant Killer" and aircraft entering the area coordinate activity on 135.725 or 249.8, then may switch to their own frequencies.

Giant Killer (FACSFAC) has several VHF and UHF frequencies for discrete use to control both the ADIZ and more importantly, the ranges. Much, if not most, of the radio traffic within the warning area is now encrypted, except for the area safety and control channels.

And to the west of O.C., the Ocean Pines Police Department switched to the O.C. trunked system several years ago, but the fire department remains on the county's and its own 46 MHz channels. The channels listed below, however, are still licensed by Ocean Pines. Updates are appreciated.

OCEAN PINES
46.3400 Ocean Pines VFD mobile
461.8750 Ocean Pines PD (former channel)
462.0250 Ocean Pines
467.8125 Ocean Pines Golf Course

### FREQUENCIES WORTH MENTIONING BUT NOT WORTH MONITORING

46.2800 O.C. Fire Station Alerting (no voice)
109.1500 O.C. Airport Runway 14 NavAid
173.2625 O.C. Water Dept SCADA
173.3125 O.C. Water Dept SCADA
410.0750 O.C. Airport Weather ASOS

If you're planning to visit O.C., these Delaware frequencies will give you a fair sampling of what's going on north of the state line. Unfortunately, Delaware's digital trunked system snuffed out much of the resort area's best chatter. Many of the former radio systems are still used to some degree, often by related agencies, or just not as often.

DELAWARE
150.815 r   Sea Colony security *NEW for 2000*
154.400 -   Blades VFD (repeats Sussex Co talkgroups)
154.755 r   DSP Sussex Co Troops (SusCom simulcast)
453.225 r   Indian River VFD (repeats Sussex Co talkgroups)
453.300 r   Rehoboth Beach VFD (cross-repeats 33.78)

The plan in Sussex County is to eventually move volunteer alerting from 33.78 to the UHF band, and create a network of trunked system simulcasts and "company channels" also in the UHF band to keep the volunteer fire fighters in the loop. The county has already licensed each fire department and any

affiliated substation.  Several of these channels are already, or were at one time, in use by the licensed department.

SUSSEX CO VFDs (FUTURE PLAN)
453.075 Countywide
453.700 Countywide
460.575 Co. 70 Bethany Beach/Fenwick Isl Sub
453.500 Co. 71 Blades
453.125 Co. 72 Bridgeville
453.775 Co. 73 Dagsboro
453.350 Co. 74 Delmar
453.100 Co. 75 Ellendale
453.425 Co. 76 Frankford
453.850 Co. 77 Georgetown
453.150 Co. 78 Greenwood
453.875 Co. 79 Gumboro
453.225 Co. 80 Indian Rvr, Long Neck/Oak
          Orchard Subs
453.550 Co. 81 Laurel
460.550 Co. 82 Lewes/Nassau Sub
453.600 Co. 83 Millsboro
453.375 Co. 84 Millville
453.450 Co. 85 Milton
453.250 Co. 86 Rehoboth Beach/Midway Sub
453.900 Co. 87 Seaford
453.950 Co. 88 Selbyville
453.475 Co. 89 Slaughter Beach
453.575 Co. 90 Roxana/Bayville Sub
453.850 Co. 93 Georgetown Legion

Special thanks to Earl Suitor and Bill Zittle for their assistance with this report.



# AREA TRUNKED SYSTEM UPDATES

800 MHz frequencies listed below are tentative and are subject to change as coordination efforts continue.

Charles County: Fire dispatcher Chris Hughes says the county has made a decision to build an 800 MHz trunked analog/digital radio system.  The next phase will be to solicit bids.  Frequencies are: 866.325, 866.625, 867.05, 867.45, 868.65, 868.675, 868.9 and 868.925.

Montgomery County: Two recent county-sponsored citizen meetings discussed Montgomery County's 20-channel digital trunked system.  Ken Knopp provides us with the details.  The county is seeking 91 percent in-building coverage for portable radios.

The potential plan of 15 new tower locations was engineered to only two new sites -- the WSSC water tank on Shady Grove Road and the new Clarksburg county correctional facility.  The new towers will each be 250 foot lattice-style with red marker lights (no strobes) and will be similar to the tower at Montgomery College's Germantown Campus.

Pending the approval of the tower committee, site construction will begin in August or September.  Construction of equipment shelters at each location is planned to start in October or November.

Eleven existing site locations will be upgraded with new equipment.  Sites specifically mentioned include Vernon Place, Hampshire Greens, PEPCO's Quince Orchard tower, PEPCO's Dickerson Power Plant, among others.  The Shady Grove site will be the "brains of the system" site because of its proximity to core county services, radio shop, etc.  The target for system operation is 24 months to coincide with the completion of the new Emergency Communications Center in Gaithersburg (Quince Orchard Road).  Frequencies are: 866.2125, 866.275, 866.3375, 866.4875, 866.65, 867.7375, 867.8375, 867.8875, 867.9125, 868.1125, 868.1625, 868.275, 868.3625, 868.3875, 868.4375, 868.6125, 868.6375, 868.6875, 868.8625, 868.8875 and 868.9375.

Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties: This system is unique in the region because it will consist of several counties on the same system.  Phil Taylor, Queen Anne's County emergency services director, says his county and Talbot County are committed, with Caroline hopefully planning to join within two years.  The three jurisdictions have been

dubbed the Unified Maryland Eastern Shore Consortium. Kent County, which had entertained the possibility of joining, opted to expand a high-band VHF system that should be completed this summer.

A contract for the consortium's system has been signed with Motorola. Queen Anne's County's new building is complete, and systems installation is scheduled through summer. All sites are up, with the exception of Sudlersville.

Taylor says several state agencies (SHA, MIEMSS, DNR and MSP) provided some antenna sites, and those agencies will receive talkgroups in exchange. While the system has been assigned 10 frequency pairs, Region 28, the frequency coordinating committee region adjoining Maryland, has challenged four of the allocations. Taylor is hopeful they can resolve the concerns with some site modifications. Testing is slated for the fall with cutover during December and January. Frequencies are: 866.5875, 866.7, 866.8, 866.975, 867.575, 868.425, 868.475, 868.525, 868.675 and 868.9875.

Fauquier County: Planning for a new radio system, which could cost as much as $8 million, has begun according to articles appearing in the Fauquier Citizen. County officials had planned to replace Fauquier's emergency radio system with an 800 MHz network. But county supervisors voted unanimously in March also to consider a less expensive 150 MHz system. The county awaits FCC approval of 150 MHz radio channels for which it has applied (as of this writing no new or pending 150 MHz frequencies appear for the county in the online FCC database).

The proposed 800 MHz system would require three to five new towers at heights of 250 to 350 feet. A 150 MHz system could use existing towers and would cost nearly 75 percent less, consultants claim. Bid specifications for the system could be ready by December, Project Manager Mark Cornwell said in an article appearing in the Fauquier Citizen. Building the complete system could take five to seven years. According to the article, major system failures in the existing system -- when a base radio cannot transmit or receive -- have occurred nine times since 1995. Frequencies are: 866.2, 866.225, 866.6375, 866.9, 866.9375, 867.2125, 867.4375, 867.625, 867.7, 867.85,

867.925, 868.05, 868.2, 868.2875, 868.45 and 868.7.

Prince William County: A contract was signed with Motorola in December and the county is developing its fleetmaps. John Maddox, from the county's 800 MHz project team, says tower site procurement, the next significant step, has not been approved. The system will be digital (APCO 25 compliant). It will include mobile data terminals and non-public safety users, such as parks, service authority and schools. If all goes well, the county will conduct the acceptance test in May or June 2001 and start cut-over shortly after that. Frequencies are: 866.175, 866.45, 866.475, 866.7, 866.725, 866.9625, 866.9875, 867.725, 867.7875, 867.9, 868.175, 868.3375, 868.6, 868.625, 868.85, 868.875 and 868.95.
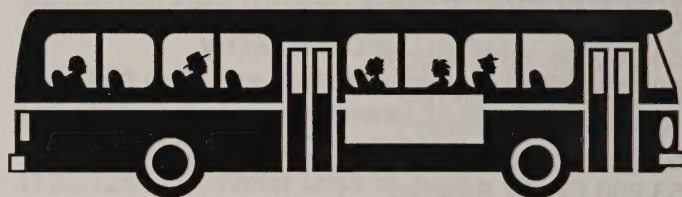


# RIDE-ON GETS NEW CHANNEL PLAN

Montgomery County's Ride-On bus service changed its channel plan a few months ago. Radios used for AVL (automatic vehicle location) have all channels listed below. Radios used for voice traffic only have channels 2 and 3. Ride-On will not switch to the county's trunked system. In fact, when the county's trunked system is activated, Ride-On will likely inherent some of the equipment and channels now used by the county public works.

| Frequency | Tone | Channel |
|---|---|---|
| 452.850 r | [156.7] | Ride-On 1 |
| 452.775 r | [203.5] | Ride-On 2 |
| 452.850 r | [156.7] | Ride-On 3 (457.825 input) |
| 452.850 r | [ CSQ ] | AVL Data |
| 452.775 r | [156.7] | Ch 2 MD5 |
| 452.825 r | [156.7] | Ch 3 MD6 |
| 452.775 r | [203.5] | Ch 2 MD7 M1 |
| 452.825 r | [203.5] | Ch 3 MD8 M1 |
| 452.850 r | [ CSQ ] | 09 24 96 |
| 452.850 r | [ CSQ ] | Vol Tone |
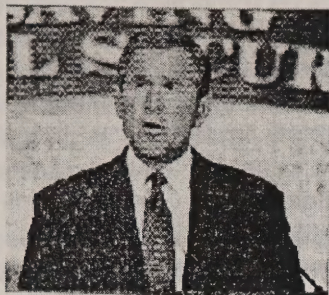
## BUSH CAMPAIGN FREQUENCIES!

Listed below are the frequencies used by the Bush campaign staff:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 464.625 [ 132 ] | Ch. 1 | |
| 464.700 [ 132 ] | Ch. 2 | |
| 464.725 [ 226 ] | Ch. 3 | |
| 464.750 [ 226 ] | Ch. 4 | |
| 469.625 [ 346 ] | Ch. 5 | |
| 469.700 [ 346 ] | Ch. 6 | |

## NEW NOVA FIRE/POLICE STATIONS

by Ken Fowler (kfowler1@osf1.gmu.edu)

Fairfax County Station 39 (Northpointe, Reston) will open in January 2001 or thereabouts. The county's FY2001 proposed budget includes funding to start construction on the new Sully police station to be completed by 2002 and expansion of Fire Station 27 for a new apparatus bay for a new engine company

The Prince William County budget for FY2001-2007 includes funding for new fire houses. Station 20 will be occupied during FY2001 in the Prince William Commons area (Dale City Fire Levy) near Smoketown Road and Prince William Parkway. Station 22 will be occupied in FY2003 in the Wellington area (Stonewall Jackson VFD) Trotwood Meadows Ct and Virginia Meadows Drive. Station 24 Newport (OWL VFD) is scheduled to be built at Neabsco Road and Rt 1 with a target date of

FY2002. Another station, possibly Station 21, is scheduled for Cherry Hill Road and Rt 1 with a target date of FY2006.

New police stations are planned for the Central District at the McCoart Building and the Western District in the Innovation at Prince William area. For more details check:
http://www.pwcgov.org/budan/01propcip/

In Stafford County as of July 1, paid firefighters will be assigned to fire stations 1, 2 and 10. Also, career medic units will come online from the Brooke and Hartwood stations this year. Construction is under way on the new south county sheriff substation and Berea fire station complex in the Stafford Lakes subdivision of US 17.

Spotsylvania County has three future fire stations: Station 9, Belmont, is currently being funded and the others are Lee's Hill South and Shady Grove.

## Scanner Digest Seeks Editors

The Scanner Digest, a regional scanner newsletter similar to the old Northeast Scanning News, seeks editors for D.C., Virginia and Maryland says Jack McCartan, the Digest's Delaware editor. Jack asks anyone interested to contact Lou Campagna, c/o Scanner Digest, P.O. Box 207, Jamison, PA 18929-0207 or e-mail ScannerDigest@usa.net

### NewsScan

NEW SOFTWARE FOR MPD ERT. The Metro Police Department SWAT team purchased PDon-Scene incident management software. PDon-Scene, boasts a May 15 FieldSoft press release, is used to manage people, resources, and events

while on the scene of an emergency. The software purportedly automates incident management functions. FieldSoft provides automated incident management, responder accountability, and incident pre-planning software. The product line also includes FDonScene for the fire service. For more info: http://www.fieldsoft.com

CORDLESS INTERCEPTION LEADS TO DEFAMATION SUIT. "As a dispute with their neighbors intensified in 1994," reads the May 13 New York Times, "Mitchell and Candace Aronson of Evergreen, Colo., tuned in a police scanner to intercept private phone conversations and heard the neighbors make what the Aronsons perceived were anti-Semitic remarks about them. The Aronsons immediately sought help from the Anti-Defamation League, whose local director publicly called the neighbors anti-Semites." The Aronsons filed a lawsuit against the Quigleys who countersued. Those two lawsuits eventually were resolved with neither family having to give the other any money.

Unknown to anyone at the time that the Aronsons were taping -- including the local district attorney -- was that Congress had amended the federal wiretap law, making it illegal to record cordless telephone conversations, and to transcribe the material and to use the transcriptions for any purpose. The law already covered conventional telephones and cellular phones. Over the next five and a half years, the New York Times said the conflict widened into a vicious legal battle over issues of privacy and defamation, ending in a Denver federal court, where a jury returned the first verdict ever against the ADL.

The jury found that the statements at the ADL news conference, and on talk radio, were defamatory and "not substantially true." The accusations allegedly had a devastating effect on William Quigley's career as a film executive, the May 29 Jerusalem Post noted. The jury awarded William and Dorothy Quigley, $10.5 million in damages -- a quarter of the league's annual budget. The district attorney later apologized to the Quigleys for filing hate crime charges against them, and his office paid $75,000 to settle a lawsuit. The Quigleys also got a $350,000 settlement from the two lawyers who initially represented the Aronsons.

The ADL Colorado chairman said the jury may have been sending a message against such an in-

vasion of privacy as the police scanner rather than weighing whether the anti-Semitic label against the Quigleys was true. The Jerusalem Post said no fines were levied against the Aronsons, who initiated the anti-Semitism charges and taped the conversations, nor against the district attorney, who charged the Quigleys with criminal ethnic intimidation before backing down and apologizing. Parties involved with the case have refused to comment with appeals pending.

NYPD COP BUSTED FOR PAGER HACKING. A Southern District judge refused to dismiss a case against a New York City police officer who was accused of using Message Tracker software to intercept paging messages sent from his department to other officers. The judge, reports the May 2 NY Law Journal, rejected arguments by the officer that reading the pages is not forbidden under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, and that he was the victim of selective prosecution in the case.

Kevin Sills, a police officer for the city since 1996, was the subject of a sting operation in 1998 by a criminal investigator working for the U.S. Attorney's Office. The two-count indictment charged that between 1996 and 1998, Sills possessed software that was programmed to intercept alphanumeric pager messages, a violation of 2512(1)(b) of the act. It also charged Sills with violating 2511(1)(a) of the act by intercepting such messages.

In phone conversations with an employee of K & L Technology (the maker of the Message Tracker) who was cooperating with the investigator, Sills allegedly said he had been reading other pagers, asked the employee if the company would modify his scanner so it worked in conjunction with a more advanced version of Message Tracker and then ordered the modifications to be done. Read the full story at:
http://www.nylj.com/stories/00/05/050200a1.htm

MEDIA ACCUSES MEDIA OF ILLEGAL PAGER INTERCEPTION. KIRO-TV in Seattle filed a complaint with the FCC charging that rival KING-TV intercepted its pager messages during coverage of the World Trade Organization protests last year. KIRO-TV, reports Broadcasting & Cable, claims its pager company mistakenly programmed KING-TV's pagers with KIRO-TV capcodes and, as a result, KING-TV was able to receive KIRO-TV's messages. The KIRO-TV news director said the situa-

tion came to light when a KING-TV reporter called KIRO-TV to invite himself to a KIRO-TV going-away party, and revealed how he knew about the event. The reporter said he had been watching their pages, but didn't say if any of the information had been used strategically.

BROWARD SHERIFF RADIO SYSTEM HACKED. Two men are accused of having hacked their way into the Broward Sheriff's Office communications system and spewed profanity. Posing as Pembroke Pines police officers on the radio system, reports the May 26 Miami Herald, the pair also made bogus backup requests, uttered suggestive comments to female operators -- and ultimately caused BSO's five-story headquarters to be evacuated. The two men are charged with a laundry list of offenses, including racketeering and impersonating a police officer.

The radio caper began when Pembroke Pines police arrested one of the men in April 1999. Police caught him parked in front of an office plaza at 5 a. m. with a police scanner and what looked like break-in tools. He was released on bail. Three months later, in retaliation, the two men allegedly used a two-way radio to hack into what they thought was the Pembroke Pines' police dispatch system. Because the police department's calls are forwarded to the sheriff's office at night, the men unwittingly began wreaking vengeance on the wrong agency, police claimed. BSO's 800 MHz communications system was touted as tamper-proof when it was installed five years ago, but officials conceded it could now be violated.

CARROLL COUNTY TRYING TO ACCOMMODATE COMMONWEALTH TRUNKED SYSTEM. Carroll County may change some frequencies used by its trunked radio system to avoid interference with the statewide radio system Pennsylvania is planning to install. Pennsylvania could be using an 800 MHz radio system, states the April 27 Carroll County Times, in nearby counties, such as Adams, Lancaster, York and Franklin, as early as December.

Carroll has an FCC license to use nine of the 866-869 MHz frequencies, but officials are still negotiating use of a few of those frequencies with Pennsylvania. "This seems to have taken forever," said Buddy Redman, director of the county's Office of Public Safety. "But we should be pretty close."

Pennsylvania's statewide project will cost about $222 million, and the southeast corner of the state - including the counties near Carroll - could be up and ready by December. The system will have 25,000 users when it's completed for the entire state in 2001.

To resolve the possible interstate conflict by the December target date, the article stated, Carroll needs to go through the FCC and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) to get licenses for any new frequencies. Redman said he is not sure when exactly the switch would happen. Carroll has had its 800 MHz system since 1997. The county paid Motorola $8 million to build the system. The latest system frequencies, still subject to change, are: 866.1625, 867.1375, 867.3375, 867.425, 867.45, 867.475, 867.5875, 867.9375, 868.3375 and 868.825.

ANNE ARUNDEL RADIO DEAD ZONES. News reports appearing in the Baltimore Sun and on Baltimore TV stations during the past few months state that cellular systems in eight areas of Anne Arundel County have been overpowering the county's trunked system. The police chief initially proposed spending about $23,000 on cellular phones for officers patrolling the dead zones. But the department will probably buy about 20 new radios instead, because they are supposed to work in the dead zones. The radios supposedly feature better filtering and appear to eliminate the interference. If a $22 million expenditure is approved, all radios would eventually be replaced with new models, which feature analog and digital capability.

BALTIMORE PLANNING FIREHOUSE CLOSURES. The mayor of Baltimore announced plans to close seven firehouses. The closings, reports the May 10 Baltimore Sun, would not result in layoffs and would save about $4 to $5 million. That savings would be used to put additional EMS units on the street and give pay raises to firefighters and police officers, the mayor claims. The plan was based on statistics that show the number of fires in the city has dropped by 60 percent during the past five years. In 1994, units responded to 5,621 calls, compared with 2,367 last year.

The number of EMS calls, however, has skyrocketed recently as paramedics grapple with an epidemic of violence and drugs. The city has an average response time of eight minutes and 44 seconds for EMS, more than double the national average of four minutes, according to the report by the mayor's office. The apparatus being targeted for closing are: engines 3, 19, 24, 52 and 128; and trucks 13 and 15. Firefighting efforts could be bolstered using an unsigned "automatic aid pact" with Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties.

FAA BUILDS NEW REGIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FACILITY. In March the FAA started building a regional air traffic control facility to serve the entire Baltimore-Washington area. According to an FAA press release, the new facility, at Vint Hill in Fauquier County, promises to improve safety and efficiency of air travel in the region. Dubbed the "Potomac Tracon," the facility will consolidate terminal radar control facilities at four airports - Baltimore-Washington International, Dulles International, Reagan Washington National and Andrews Air Force Base - into one.

The new Tracon (Terminal Radar Approach CONtrol) will guide aircraft within about a 75-mile radius of Washington, D.C. Each of the four airports will continue to be served by its existing control tower. The Potomac Tracon is planned to be fully operational in May of 2002. About 250 air traffic controllers and technicians will work in the new building. The new facility will be a 95,000-square-foot building on a 33-acre site. Total cost of the Potomac Tracon is an estimated $93 million. For more details contact William Shumann at 202-267-8521.

COMBAT MARINES TO GET ICOM RADIOS. With delivery of new intra-squad radios, Marines yelling commands and using handsignals to communicate with other squad mates may be a thing of the past, states the Marine Corps Times. Not a new technology by any means, training for urban warfare convinced the Corps to buy the small, off-the-shelf-commercial radios for every Marine in a combat infantry battalion. The Corps is buying 13,000 radios for $1.5 million. Made by ICOM America, the radios were modified to function within the military UHF band and provide no communications security. The radios are particularly effective in dense undergrowth and urban settings.

Delivery to each active duty and reserve infantry battalion is scheduled for September and October.

Eric Carlson, John Henault, Daniel Kaniewski, Dan Patrick, Mike Peyton and Dave Statter contributed to this issue's NewsScan.

# # #

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and write articles that relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for style and content. When submitting material please make certain we can contact you should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a reply envelope.

**Join Local Scanner Enthusiasts On-Line!**
We encourage computer users to take part in discussions on Frank Carson's Open Channel computer BBS (301-203-8478) or subscribe to the Scan-DC listserv by sending an e-mail to majordomo@qth.net with the words "subscribe scan-dc" (no quotes) as the message.
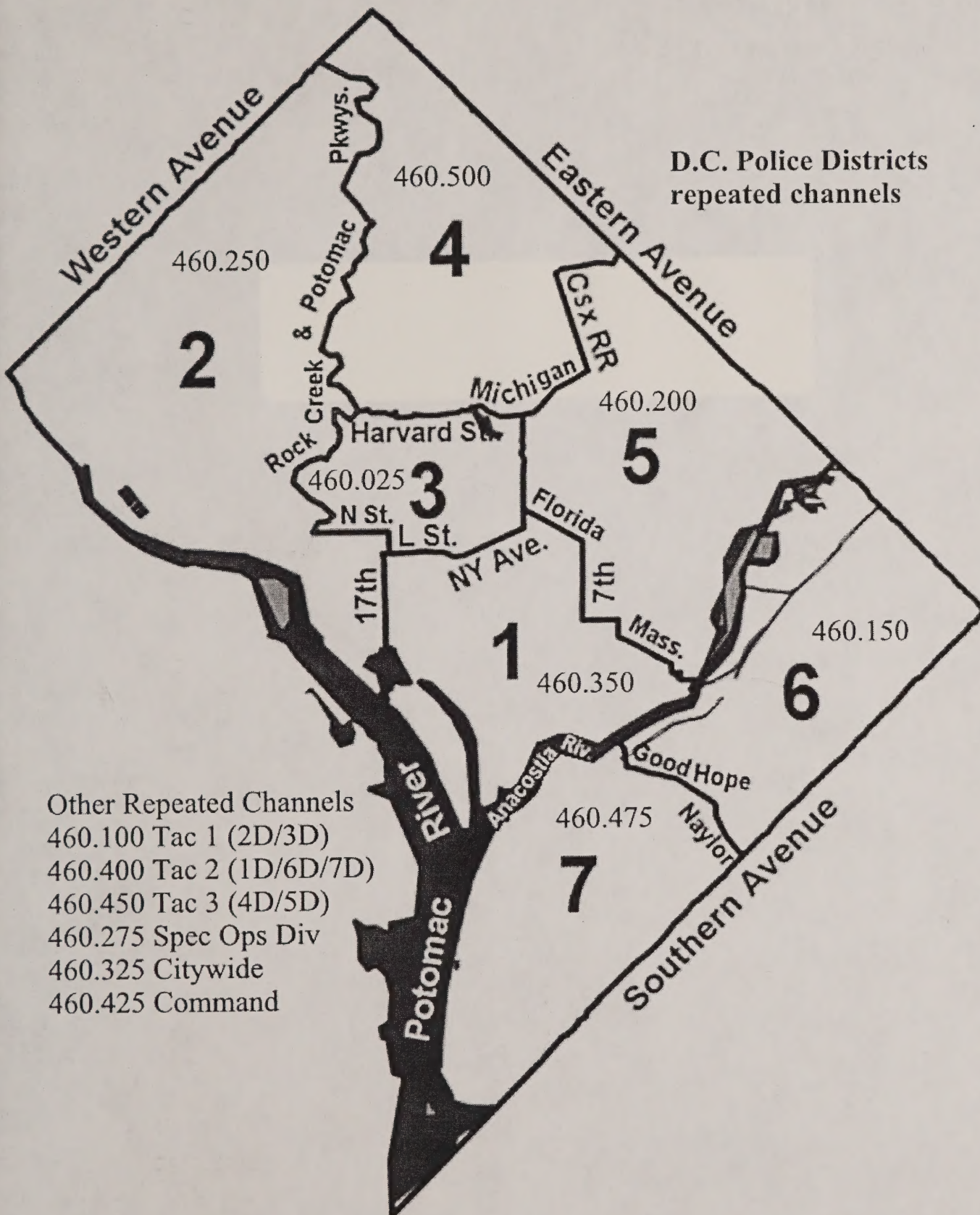
**D.C. Police Districts repeated channels**

Western Avenue

Eastern Avenue

Pkwys.

460.500

**4**

460.250

Rock Creek & Potomac

**2**

Csx RR

Michigan

460.200

Harvard St.

**5**

460.025 **3**

N St.

L St.

Florida

NY Ave.

17th

7th

Mass.

460.150

**1** 460.350

**6**

Anacostia Riv.

Good Hope

460.475

Naylor

**7**

Potomac River

Southern Avenue

Other Repeated Channels
460.100 Tac 1 (2D/3D)
460.400 Tac 2 (1D/6D/7D)
460.450 Tac 3 (4D/5D)
460.275 Spec Ops Div
460.325 Citywide
460.425 Command

# The Capitol Hill Monitor